

surface of quills and tail feathers glossy grey. Lower parts white; feathers of breast and flanks fulvous and edged with dusky, the latter appearing as crescentic bars of brown; abdomen, vent and undertail-coverts white, faintly tinged with buff; axillaries and underwing-coverts white, edged with silver grey, a few feathers tipped with greenish-blue.

Iris light brown; upper mandible and the edges of the lower dull black, with white and hooked extreme tips; basal two-thirds of the lower mandible light flesh-colour; inside of mouth red; legs plumbeous, inner surface of toes, and tarsus pale fleshy; claws blackish or dark horn.

CALCUTTA.

February 13, 1934.

S. C. LAW, M.A., Ph.D.,

F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

### XIII.—NESTING HABITS OF THE BLUE-ROCK PIGEON (*COLUMBIA LIVIA*).

Will you, please, let me know if the following incident is unusual? My engineer, once saw two Blue-Rock pigeons drinking from the exhaust water of a steam engine—temperature of the water being 140° F.! I have found these birds living happily in very odd places: in the engine room where two coupled vertical triple expansion steam engines (developing a total of two thousand horsepower) are working day and night; over a battery of steam boilers where valves are hissing continuously—even the blowing off of live steam under a pressure of 200 lbs. does not disturb their equanimity. They not only reside in these places but even breed there!

AHMEDABAD.

H. N. ACHARYA.

December 18, 1933.

[The Blue-Rock Pigeon, which is almost semi-domesticated in many parts of India has adapted itself to the varied conditions of life which its association with man imposes. It is not uncommon to see the nests of these birds in the engine rooms of mills, or in railway stations, where, in the roofing above the track, the nests and their occupants are exposed to heat, steam and smoke. Conditions which appear to cause them little inconvenience.—Eds.].

### XIV.—OCCURRENCE OF THE MANDARIN DUCK [*AIX GALERICULATA* (LINN.)] IN THE MANIPUR STATE.

On the 3rd March, 1934, two Mandarin drakes and two Mandarin ducks were shot in Manipur State. As the bird has been recorded very rarely in India, I send a description of the shooting in case it may be of interest. Capt. W. L. Neal, I.M.S., and I were shooting down the Mayangkhang Valley at a height of about 3,500 ft. The valley is narrow varying from about 200 yds. to

half a mile in width with hills on either side rising to 5,000 ft. or more. The Senapati stream runs through the valley joining the Barak river about 6 miles away. It is quite a small stream varying from about 12 to 25 ft. in width, with a stony bottom, and at this time of year about ankle-deep in most places. There are occasional pools and here and there old beds of the river with water and high grass in them.

Capt. Neal who was walking along the bed of the stream fired at 4 or 5 duck which rose from it. Two birds fell; but they were rather far away, and, although we searched for some time, we could find no trace of them. At this place the stream is right up against the hillside which was covered with thick grass and some trees. It was a shady spot and the water was perhaps a foot deep. In the shade the visibility was poor and we did not recognise that the birds were any unusual kind of duck. Common teal have been shot in that valley before.

About one mile further on one pair, a drake and a duck rose out of an old bed of the stream from thick high grass in front of me. I had just shot a bamboo partridge and was not loaded when the duck rose. It flew back and Capt. Neal shot it. The drake rose a moment later and flew back. I failed to bring it down. We still did not know what the birds were. The drake appeared to settle about a mile away up stream.

Later in the day Capt. Neal left and Mr. C. F. Jeffery, State Engineer, joined me. We returned along the stream and this time I shot the drake, which Mr. Jeffery identified. There seems to be no possible doubt about the identification. I have sent you the skin of one drake and one duck to verify.

When we went to the place where Capt. Neal had first fired, Mr. Jeffery's Labrador bitch found both the wounded birds in the long grass on the hillside. We had previously decided that, if they could fly, we should not shoot; but both had been hard hit and we could not leave them.

IMPHAL,

MANIPUR STATE,  
ASSAM.

C. GIMSON.

March 28, 1934.

[The birds sent in for identification were Mandarin Ducks (*A. galericulata*). According to Stuart Baker, *New Fauna*, the Mandarin has so far only been obtained at Lakhimpur, Assam, by Stevens. Six birds were once seen by the author.—Eds.].

#### XV.—MIGRATION AND DECREASE OF SNIPE IN THE ANDAMANS.

I was very pleased to read in vol. xxxvi, No. 4, *B.N.H.S. Journal*, Major A. Bayley-de-Castro's reply to my letter on early snipe in the Andamans. I too have found odd birds very late in the year but I seldom shoot them as I find them usually